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MYCOLOGIA

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ILLUSTRATIONS OF FUNGI—I

William A. Murrill

Each number of this journal will contain a plate representing certain species of fungi in their natural colors. The photographic work for these illustrations is being done by Mr. F. C. Berte and the color work by Mr. E. C. Volkert. Technical descriptions and notes of interest will accompany each plate.

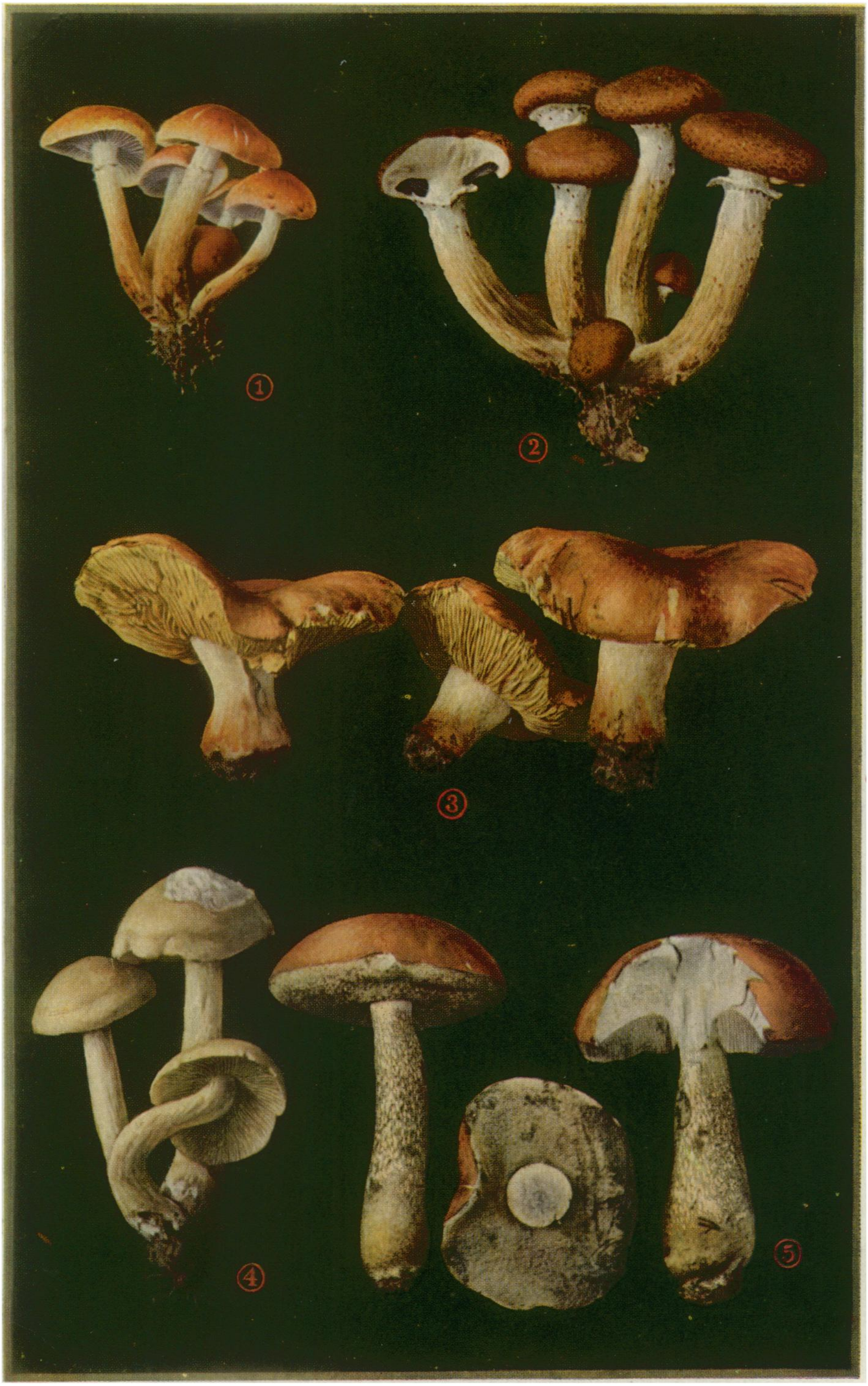
Hypholoma perplexum (Peck) Sacc.

Perplexing Hypholoma

Plate 1. Figure 1. × $\frac{2}{3}$

Pileus 5–8 cm., convex to nearly plane, smooth, glabrous, dry, slightly umbonate at times, latericeous to bay, the margin cream-colored to ochraceous; flesh of mild flavor, white or nearly so, becoming yellowish with age; gills adnate, somewhat rounded, sometimes slightly decurrent, thin, narrow, crowded, pale yellow, becoming greenish, and finally purplish-brown from the ripening spores, which are ellipsoid, smooth, purplish-brown, 7–8 × 4 μ; stipe 6–10 cm. long, 5–7 mm. thick, subequal, firm, hollow, slightly fibrillose, stramineous above, ochraceous or reddish below, ornamented with an arachnoid ring when young, which becomes conspicuous by reason of the spores which collect upon it.

This species occurs abundantly on stumps and roots of deciduous trees in autumn, appearing in conspicuous reddish clusters of considerable size. It is edible, but not very good in quality, being useful because of its very late appearance. Peck separated it in 1872 from *H. sublateritium* chiefly because it lacked the bitter taste ascribed to that species, of which it may be only a form.



ILLUSTRATIONS OF FUNGI

In collecting this species for food, young and fresh specimens of mild flavor should be selected, and they should be cooked for at least thirty minutes.

Armillaria mellea (Vahl) Quél.

HONEY AGARIC

Plate 1. Figure 2. × ½

Pileus convex to expanded, 4–12 cm. broad, very variable, usually dry, smooth or becoming striate toward the margin, pale honey-yellow to dark reddish-brown, usually adorned with minute tufts of brown or blackish hairs, which are more abundant on the disk; flesh white or whitish, somewhat acrid and unpleasant to the taste; gills adnate or decurrent, white or whitish, becoming discolored or spotted with age; spores ellipsoid, smooth, hyaline, 7–10 μ long; ring white, cottony, with dark specks, or thin, arachnoid and evanescent; stem melleous, reddish-brown or dirty-brown below, paler above, nearly equal, firm, fibrous, spongy within, usually floccose-scaly below the ring, 4–12 cm. long, 5–15 mm. thick.

Very widely distributed and very abundant on stumps and buried roots of both deciduous and evergreen trees, on which it grows as a parasite, the sporophores appearing in dense clusters in autumn and the shining brown cords or *rhizomorphs* being often seen in dead logs and stumps. To the forester this is probably the most important species of all the gill-fungi. It is also much used as an article of food in Europe and about New York City, although of inferior quality.

Tricholoma equestre (L.) Quél.

EQUESTRIAN TRICHOLOMA

Plate 1. Figure 3. × ½

Pileus convex to expanded, depressed at the center, 8–12 cm. broad, yellowish or reddish, the disk darker, glabrous or slightly scaly, margin flexuous; flesh white or slightly yellowish, rather unpleasant in flavor; gills broad, nearly free, rounded behind, close, sulphur-yellow; spores ellipsoid, smooth, hyaline, 6–8 × 4–5 μ; stipe short, thick, solid, variable in shape, white with yellow or red markings, 3–6 cm. long, 1–2 cm. thick.

This edible species is conspicuous and beautiful, but not abundant. It occurs in autumn in sandy soil under or near evergreen trees in Europe and the northeastern United States.

Clitocybe multiceps Peck

MANY-HEADED CLITOCYBE

Plate 1. Figure 4. × $\frac{1}{3}$

Pileus 3–8 cm. broad, convex to expanded, smooth, glabrous, watery-white to pale avellaneous-isabelline, the disk more grayish; flesh milk-white, mild, somewhat oily, firm and persistent; gills adnate or slightly decurrent, rarely sinuate, white or pale stramineous, close and narrow; spores globose, smooth, hyaline, 5–7 μ; stipe 5–10 cm. long, 7–15 mm. thick, cylindrical, equal, solid or stuffed, firm, white or pale stramineous, pruinose above.

This species occurs in wet weather in dense clusters on lawns, especially in rather long grass, and is usually found in great abundance when found at all. Its flesh is firm, with a slight oily flavor, and sporophores may be kept for several days before cooking. It is known only from New York and a few adjoining states, but should stand transplanting in sod rather easily. Having used it in quantity from my own lawn, I can recommend it as a valuable edible species.

Boletus scaber Bull.

ROUGH-STEMMED BOLETUS

Plate 1. Figure 5. × $\frac{1}{3}$

Pileus convex, 3–12 cm. broad, very variable in color, white, red or brown, usually smooth and glabrous; flesh white, becoming slightly darker or flesh-colored when bruised; tubes long, slender, depressed about the stem, white or stramineous, becoming brownish with age and flesh-colored or blackish when bruised; spores oblong, smooth, brown, 13–16 μ long; stem firm, solid, tapering upward, 5–15 cm. long, 1–2 cm. thick, whitish, roughened with numerous reddish or brownish dots or scales.

This is a very handsome edible species and the most abundant of the fleshy tube-bearing fungi, being found on the ground in woods or groves from June to November. Most of the boleti are edible, but a few are considered dangerous and should be well known by the beginner before any specimens of the group are collected for food.